REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is requested under 37 CFR 1.116 because it merely implements the Examiner's suggestion for putting the case in condition for allowance and it will not require a new search.

In the final rejection, the only reason for rejecting independent claim 31 was that the Examiner considered the term "contiguous" could be interpreted to have a meaning different from that assumed by Applicant in Applicant's remarks. Specifically, the Examiner cited the American Heritage Dictionary as showing a primary meaning consistent with Applicant's patentability argument, i.e., "sharing an edge or boundary; touching", but as also showing a secondary meaning of "nearby; neighboring; adjacent".

The undersigned attorney for Applicant initiated a telephone interview with the Examiner on January 20, 2006, in order to discuss replacing the word "contiguous" in claim 31 with alternative language that would unambiguously have the intended meaning. Only claim 31 was discussed.

The Examiner suggested amending independent claim 31 to recite that the recess "includes" the aperture rather than being "contiguous" with the aperture. Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to discuss this issue and for making this suggestion.

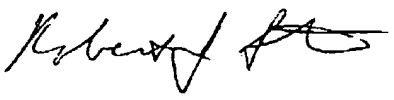
The present amendment implements the Examiner's suggestion in claim 31, line 5. The recess now includes the aperture rather than being contiguous with the aperture. For example, referring to the embodiment of Figure 3B, the term "recess" is now defined as including both the aperture 52 and the adjoining portion 54 of the recess.

The last paragraph of claim 31 originally referred only to the portion (e.g., 54 in Fig. 3B) of the recess other than the aperture (52). Because the amendment to line 5 now redefines the "recess" as both portions, to retain its original meaning it was necessary to amend the last paragraph of claim 31 to recite that a "portion" (54) of the recess does not extend through the liner.

The dependent claims are amended to refer to "said portion" to be consistent with the last paragraph of claim 31.

Entry of the amendment should not require a new search because the Examiner already acknowledged that claim 31 would be patentable if the aforesaid issue regarding the secondary definition of "contiguous" could be overcome by substituting alternative language.

Respectfully submitted,



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